

## **Amendments to the claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of claims:**

- Claim 1. (Previously Presented)      A masking tape comprising:
- a)      a heat resistant adhesive tape comprising a flexible sheet backing and a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition applied to said backing,
  - b)      a masking material, which is laminated in an edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, said masking material being capable of adhering to paint and of absorbing paint, and
  - c)      a masking sheet, which is laminated onto said edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, the masking sheet covering the masking material on a side thereof.
- Claim 2. (Previously Presented)      The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the adhesive tape is a heat-resistant adhesive tape for the automobile painter with a heat resistance at temperatures up to 130° C (1 hr).
- Claim 3. (Previously Presented)      The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the adhesive tape is 15 to 75 mm wide.

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Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking material is selected from the group consisting of paper, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric and another sheet material capable of adhering.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking material is unbleached Kraft paper, having a weight of 30 to 40 g/m<sup>2</sup> and a width of 15 to 50 cm.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking sheet is a polyolefin sheet which has a thickness of 7 to 40 mm and a width of 0.5 to 2 m.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking sheet is folded so that it can be extended along the external surface of the masking material and is folded against the masking material in accordion fashion.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein a portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking material adheres is 1 to 5 mm wide and the portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking sheet adheres is 1 to 5 mm wide.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the tape is rolled up into a roll, the masking sheet (6) being folded and the height of the roll corresponding

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approximately to the width of the masking material ~~(5)~~ plus the width of the adhesive tape ~~(1)~~.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A method comprising applying the masking tape of claim 1 to a part to be masked, and then subjecting said part to a surface treatment.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The masking tape of claim 2, wherein the heat-resistant adhesive tape is a **fine** line tape.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet backing is of polypropylene or soft PVC.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 3, wherein the adhesive tape is 19 to 30 mm wide.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 5, wherein the width is 20 to 40 cm.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 6, wherein the thickness is 8 to 20 mm.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The masking tape of claim 6, wherein the masking

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sheet is a polyethylene sheet.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented)                      The masking tape of claim 6, wherein the masking sheet is corona pretreated.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented)                      The masking tape of claim 1, wherein a portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking material adheres is 2 to 4 mm wide and the portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking sheet adheres is 2 to 4 mm wide.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented)                      The method of claim 10, wherein the part is an automobile part.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented)                      The method of claim 10, wherein the surface treatment is a painting treatment.